# COMMANDERS DIGEST

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*GAME WARDEN BRIEFING—Commandant of the Marine Corps, Gen. Leonard F. Chapman Jr., listens to RAdm. Kenneth L. Veth, Commander, U.S. Naval Forces, Vietnam, as he explains the Navy's Game Warden operations in the Mekong Delta. The meeting took place on the tank landing ship USS Jennings County, which serves as a floating base for Navy river patrol boats and a helicopter attack squadron detachment. Game Warden craft patrol rivers and canals of the Delta in search of enemy attempts to move men and supplies.*

## VA Acts to End Discrimination In Sale of Repossessed Homes

Veterans Administration has taken four steps to assure nondiscrimination in the sale of 14,200 repossessed houses the VA currently has on the market throughout the country.

A mid-January VA announcement said metal "VA For Sale" signs are being altered to include such statements as "no discrimination" and "anyone can buy."

Moreover, VA will put in newspaper advertisements and other public listings a statement that "VA properties are available to qualified buyers or renters without regard to their race, color, creed or national origin."

Another safeguard set by VA is a three-day waiting period after public listing before it accepts the offer most advantageous to the government.

VA also is tightening up its dealings with sales brokers who handle VA listings by requiring them to certify in writing every six months that they will not discriminate in sales or rentals of VA properties. This certification has been in effect since 1962 but it used to be required only once a year.

## DOD Denies Report Of Strategy Shift On Nuclear War

The Department of Defense has denied a newspaper report alleging a "fundamental shift" of American general nuclear war strategy.

Assistant Secretary of Defense Phil G. Goulding said the alleged facts in the story "are wrong, the assumptions are wrong and the conclusions are wrong."

Mr. Goulding noted that the strategy options for general nuclear war have not changed since 1962. The policies upon which the options would be selected in time of war have not been changed. No change is under consideration.

The news article mentioned a shift in these policies.

"There has been and will continue to be a significant improvement in the quality and numbers of warheads needed to carry out the optional strategies," the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Public Affairs pointed out.

On Jan. 10, Dr. Finn Larsen, principal deputy director of defense research and engineering, gave this explanation concerning this country's policy:

"The cornerstone of our strategic policy is to deter deliberate nuclear attack upon the United States, or its allies, by maintaining a highly reliable ability to inflict an unacceptable degree of damage upon an aggressor, or combination of aggressors, at any time during the course of a strategic nuclear exchange—even after absorbing a surprise first strike.

"We call this our 'assured destruction capability,' and it will remain

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# LBJ Praises Record Of Defense Dept. In Bond-Buying

The Defense Department has one of the best records for buying Defense Bonds, President Johnson told members of the 12th Air Force at Bergstrom AFB, Tex., on presenting them a U.S. Savings Bond Minuteman Award.

He noted, "Today for the first time, we are awarding these Minuteman Flags to battlefield units. In Vietnam today, 115 units fly this flag. And they are not alone."

The President said, "In back of those men out there we have here at home tens of millions of bond buyers in the defense establishment, in the Federal Government, throughout all of our big production plants in this country.

"These patriotic Americans today hold Savings bonds and freedom shares that are valued at $52 billion. That is almost two-thirds of what our Defense budget will be this year.

"Because you have done that, we are stronger in our freedom and we are stronger in our finances."

President Johnson pointed out, "One of the things I am proudest of is the men who do the most fighting do the most financing, too."

# LCdr. Frank K. Ellis Honored by U.S. Jaycees

LCdr Frank K. Ellis, who lost both legs as a result of an airplane accident, has been named one of the Ten Most Outstanding Men of 1967 by the U.S. Junior Chamber of Commerce.

LCdr Ellis, assigned to the Naval Air Rework Facility, NAS Jacksonville, Fla., was the only military man selected for the award.

Since the accident in 1962, when he delayed ejecting from his stricken Navy jet to avoid crashing into a housing area, he has devoted much of his off duty time to helping other amputees.

*SWEARING IN—Thomas H. Nielsen (center) is sworn in as Assistant Secretary of the Air Force (Financial Management) by Air Force Secretary Harold Brown. Col. Emmerson C. Cook, military aide to Secretary Brown, assists in administering the oath.*

# Foreign Navy Men Join SeaLab III Experiment

Five Navy men from three foreign countries will join U.S. Navy men in the SEALAB III experiment off the coast of Southern California this summer.

The Royal Australian Navy is sending one officer and the Royal Navy and Royal Canadian Navy will each be represented by an officer and an enlisted man.

Only one diver from each of the navies will take part in the undersea portion of the project. The other men will be assigned to support teams on the surface.

Before the two month project begins, the foreign aquanauts will train with U.S. aquanauts at the Navy Experimental Diving Unit, Washington, D.C.

SEALAB III will be conducted at depths of 450 to 600 feet near California's San Clemente Island. Five diving teams of eight men each will live underwater for successive 12 day periods.

The SEALAB Program involves a wide range of experiments in salvage techniques, oceanographic and marine biological research and a series of physiological and human performance tests.

# AF Seeks Volunteers For Red Horse Squadrons

Air Force civil engineering NCO's are needed to serve with Red Horse squadrons in Southeast Asia.

Volunteers with specialties in the mechanical-electronic, structural pavement or sanitation career areas may also select their squadron in SEA.

Red Horse squadrons are 400 man rapid engineering deployment units which came into the Air Force about two years ago.

Air Force is looking for replacements to report beginning in June through October for the 819th, 820th, and 823 Sqdns.

Those who have already completed CEG field operational training will not be required to repeat this training.

**COMMANDERS DIGEST**

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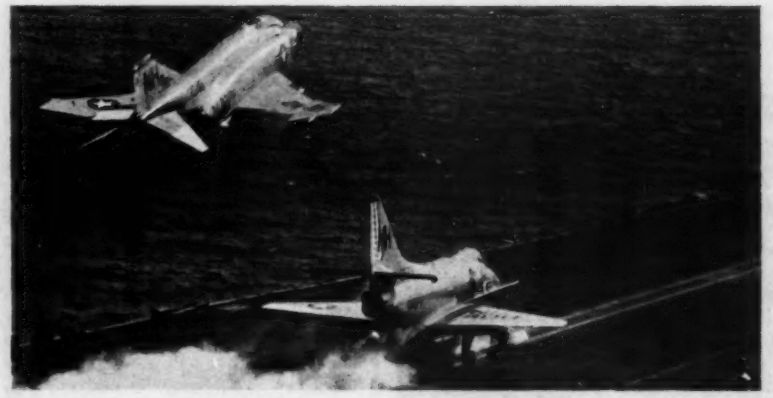

*TAKE-OFF—A Navy F-4 Phantom and an A-4 Skyhawk of Carrier Air Wing 11 are catapulted simultaneously from the flight deck of the Seventh Fleet carrier Kitty Hawk, now with Task Force 77 in the Tonkin Gulf. Kitty Hawk can launch four jet aircraft each minute. The F-4, from a standing start, was traveling 179 mph when it reached the end of the 225-ft. catapult.*

# Army Moves to Improve Accuracy Of Automated Personnel Data System

Army is taking steps to improve its automated personnel data system so it can be more accurate in determining which personnel are available for deployment.

Most of the emphasis is being placed on increasing the accuracy of data being reported into the system by 14,000 morning report organizations, according to Lt. Gen. A. O. Connor, Deputy Chief of Staff for Personnel.

He said part of the problem is that many of the personnel data errors from field units are not being detected at major command level.

To improve the situation, data processing activities at major commands will get additional computer equipment and expanded computer programs. The programs, prepared and maintained in Army's Data Support Command (DATCOM), will improve detection of missing and incompatible data before it is submitted to DATCOM.

DATCOM is also initiating a monthly audit to speed up the time it takes to correct errors. Under the new audit, errors should be corrected in one to four weeks, half the time it previously took to make corrections.

There is also a plan to use DA's Military Personnel Management teams to perform a special one-time audit of personnel management data in the system.

The object of the audit, Army officials said, is to determine, at the unit level, if all personnel are accounted for and if their "deployability" status is correctly reflected in DA reports.

An initial test audit has already been made at Fort Belvoir, Va., using rosters prepared from the DATCOM tape files of all personnel permanently assigned to Ft. Belvoir units.

The teams used the rosters to audit a representative number of records of each unit personnel section, and later assisted personnel clerks in completing the check.

The Ft. Belvoir project is now being evaluated, and Army officials say the teams may conduct similar audits of all Army units on a phased basis.

In Vietnam, Army hopes to "improve the timeliness" of personnel data reports by installing an automated system at U.S. Army, Vietnam, and allowing the reports to go directly to DA instead of through U.S. Army, Pacific.

# DOD Halts Development Of Mark 17 Re-entry Craft

Development of the Mark 17 re-entry vehicle has been stopped, Defense officials have announced.

They said it was decided to cancel the project, one of several undertaken by Air Force to meet re-entry vehicle requirements, before additional research and development or heavy production costs were incurred while expanding the efforts on other re-entry vehicle systems.

AVCO Corporation, Wilmington, Mass., had the research and production contract on the Mark 17, and about $45 million was spent before the project was terminated.

As a direct result of the Mark 17 program certain design changes have been started on the Mark 11 which will improve its capability, the officials said.

# Nuclear Strategy

(Continued from Page 1)

such as long as we maintain both the equipment (missiles, bombers, submarines, etc.) and the *will* to use it. This latter, of course, determines the credibility of our assured destruction without which we become a ftrategic 'paper tiger'."

Secretary Goulding in his statement of Jan. 16 clarified another remark that appeared in the news story concerning the Multiple Independently-targeted Re-Entry Vehicle (MIRV).

He explained that the newspaper description of a MIRV "shotgun pattern" is totally wrong. The suggestion that the MIRV warhead is to be less accurate than other warheads is also totally wrong. Each new MIRV missile warhead will be aimed individually and will be far more accurate than any previous or existing warheads. They will be far better suited for destruction of hardened enemy missile sites than any existing missile warheads.

The MIRV is being developed for land-based Minuteman III and submarine-based Poseidon missiles.

*WELCOME ABOARD—Maj. Gen. Samuel W. Koster (right), Commander of the Americal Division, greets RVN Vice President Nguyen Cao Ky at Chu Lai. Lt. Gen. Hoang Xuan Lam (left), CG, RVN I Corps, and Lt. Gen. Robert E. Cushman Jr. (center), CG, III Marine Amphibious Force, join in the welcome.*

# Navy Dept. Orders Feasibility Study Of Helicopter Cargo Off-loading

American shipping and aviation firms have been asked by the Navy to see if it is feasible to use helicopters to off-load merchant ships.

In its requests for proposals, mailed out by the Military Sea Transportation Service, Navy said the operation would be carried out off the coast of Vietnam.

Ships to be used in the evaluation would carry containers, and the helicopters would have to be capable of lifting at least five tons.

Navy officials said Vietnam was selected as the operations area because it is "representative of an undeveloped environment."

The cargo off-loaded would be equipment normally delivered to Vietnam by conventional means.

Final approval of the proposals and authority to enter into a contract will rest with the Office of the Secretary of Defense, Navy officials said, and they estimated it will take at least six months from the date of the contract to the start of the project.

## Marine Corps Seeks Officers In Engineer, Transport Fields

The Marine Corps is looking for lieutenant colonels and majors to retrain in the engineer and motor transport fields.

Volunteers are needed from the lieutenant colonel grade with MOS 0302, 0802 or 1802 for retraining in MOS 1302 or 3502, and from majors with MOS 0302 or 0802 for retraining in MOS 1302.

Officers selected will attend a six week course at Camp Lejeune, N.C., during the last quarter of fiscal year 1968.

After a tour of duty in the new MOS, the officers may decide whether or not they wish to retain the MOS, Marine Corps officials said.

# Maj. Gen. Heywood Named To Reserve Policy Board

Maj. Gen. Edwin W. Heywood, ARNGUS, has been appointed to a three-year term as a member of the Reserve Forces Policy Board.

Gen. Heywood succeeds Maj. Gen. James F. Cantwell, ARNGUS, whose term has expired.

The Reserve Forces Policy Board, acting through the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Manpower), serves as the principal policy adviser to the Secretary of Defense on matters pertaining to the reserve components.

Chairman of the Board is John Slezak, a former Under Secretary of the Army. He is assisted by Maj. Gen. Ralph A. Palladino, USAF, as military executive.

# AF Activates Reserve Airlift Support Squadron

A new Air Force Reserve military airlift support squadron (mobile enroute) will be activated at Norton AFB, Calif., in March, bringing to seven the number of such units to be gained by the Military Airlift Command (MAC) in the event of mobilization.

During contingencies and limited war situations, the units provide maintenance and crash/battle-damage repairs in overseas areas.

The overall mission of mobile support squadrons is to provide enroute and turn-around facilities for airlift forces along emergency air routes, including maintenance, supply, airlift command post, and air-terminal services.

All mobile enroute support squadrons are assigned to MAC bases for training. In addition to the squadron located at Norton AFB, two units are located at Travis AFB, Calif., and McChord AFB, Wash., and one at McGuire AFB, N.J., and Charleston AFB, S.C.

Like all Air Force Reserve units, the mobile enroute support squadrons are productively supporting active-duty Air Force units while training.

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